

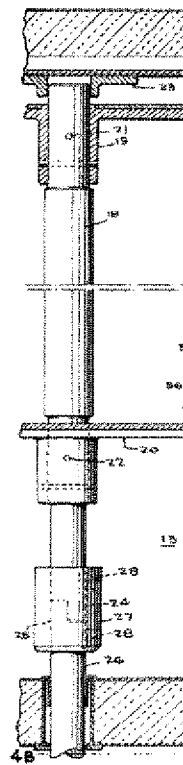
REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending herein with Claim 1 being an independent claim. Claims 14-21 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-12 stand rejected. Claim 13 is objected to.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,698,601 to Sierk, et al. Sierk was described as having a turret frame 2, a turret plate 16, 17, a pair of first female connectors 23, 25, 26, 27, and a pair of second male connectors 18. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent Claim 1 specifically recites a turret shaft with a pair of first connectors attached to the turret frame and a pair of second connectors attached to the turret plate. Sierk by contrast, attaches the turret plates 16, 17 to a shaft 18 via hub members 19, 20. See Col. 2, lines 56-62 and Fig. 4B:



As such, there are no connectors attached to the turret plate as is called for in the claim. Rather, the structure cited in the Office Action connects the central shaft 18 to the drive shaft 26. Even here, the shafts are connected via stepped ends 24, 25, *i.e.*, there is no pair of first connectors or second connectors. Rather, the shafts 18, 26 need a coupling sleeve 27 to keep the shafts attached. *See* Col. 2, line 65-Col. 3, line 4. Once the coupling shaft 27 is removed, the turret shaft is free to move transversely such that the turret can tilt out of place. Col. 3, lines 5-14. The Applicant thus asserts that independent Claim 1, and the dependent claims thereon, are clearly patentable over the cited reference.

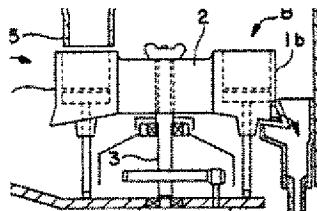
The Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependent Claims 11 and 12 for the reasons described above and because there does not appear to be any mention of a pair of protrusions or apertures positioned about what is described as the first and the second connectors in the cited reference. The Applicant requests clarification if the rejection is repeated.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 4, and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,134,924 to Vicker in light of U.S. Patent No. 1,182,905 to Hamilton, et al. (It appears that the rejection is actually Sierk in view of Hamilton.) Hamilton was described as showing a rotary shaft arrangement. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the reasons described above. The Applicant further traverses the rejection on the grounds that Hamilton merely shows a shaft coupling. There is no disclosure whatsoever of connecting a turret shaft with a

turret plate as is called for herein. The Applicant thus asserts that the claims are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,193,438 to Courtois in view of Sierk. Courtois was described as showing a rotatable turret plate 2 and a turret shaft 3 including a wing nut connector.



The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. As described above with respect to Claim 1, Sierk does not show a turret shaft with a pair of first connectors or a turret plate with a pair of second connectors. Rather, Sierk merely shows a means for connecting the shafts 18, 26 via the collar 27. Likewise, Courtois shows no connection means whatsoever. Rather, the turret plate 2 simply rotates about the shaft 3. The Applicant thus respectfully submits that independent Claim 1, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited references.

The Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependent Claims 11 and 12 for the reasons described above and because neither reference appears to show a pair of protrusions or a pair of apertures. The Applicant requests clarification if the rejection is repeated.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courtois in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,876,928 to Adams, et al. Adams was described as showing a removable turret having a pair of male connectors mating with a pair of female

connectors mounted to the turret. Although the Office Action is silent on the elements that make up the connectors, the Applicant assumes that the Office Action refers to either the pivot post 56 and the rivet 58 or the shaft 90 and the cam shaft 96. In either case, neither connection relates to connecting the turret shaft and the turret plate as is called for in the claims. The Applicant thus asserts that Claim 1, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited references. The Applicant requests clarification if the rejection is repeated.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes it has responded to each matter raised in the Office Action. Allowance of all claims is respectfully solicited. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404-853-8028.

Respectfully submitted,



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